

Wy-ALT Performance Level Descriptors for Science

Subject	Grade	Online Reporting Performance Level Descriptors (PLDs)	
Science	4	Advanced (460-575)	Students are able to build a model of the solar system and classify matter into three states. They can describe how an animal's behavior helps it to survive.
		Accelerated (425-459)	Students can compare objects in the solar system and identify forms of energy. They can match a physical trait to its function.
		Proficient (400-424)	Students can identify objects in the solar system. They can identify a survival behavior that parents teach their offspring. They can identify properties of matter.
		Basic (376-399)	Students recognize that the sun is a star. They can match animal offspring to their parents. They can identify an object as being either a solid or a liquid.
		Limited (200-375)	Students have trouble demonstrating science knowledge and skills. They need help recognizing organisms or objects.
	8	Advanced (465-575)	Students can sort minerals by their properties and identify ways to change the energy of an object. They can compare the structures and functions of different cell types.
		Accelerated (429-464)	Students can classify rocks by type and identify organelles in a cell. They recognize that potential energy is based on height and kinetic energy is based on speed.
		Proficient (400-428)	Students can classify an object as a mineral or a rock and identify plant and animal cells. They can identify examples of kinetic and potential energies.
		Basic (373-399)	Students are able to identify a rock-forming mineral and can recognize what a cell is. They can change the direction or speed of an object.
		Limited (200-372)	Students have trouble demonstrating science knowledge and skills. They struggle to make objects interact or identify oxygen as what is needed to breathe.
	9-11	Advanced (467-575)	Students can explain why a species is considered endangered and can categorize cells by the functions they perform. They can demonstrate Newton's Third Law.

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	9-11	Accelerated (437-466)	Students recognize that momentum is conserved in a collision and can describe forms of alternative energy. They can match organelles to their related processes.
		Proficient (400-436)	Students can describe how people use energy and can classify a species as endangered or non-endangered. They recognize that photosynthesis takes place in cells.
		Basic (380-399)	Students are able to identify different types of energy and alternative energy sources. They can identify endangered species.
		Limited (200-379)	Students have trouble demonstrating science knowledge and skills. They struggle to identify inherited traits or to identify types of pollution.